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Philadelphia, Tuesday, March 18, 1919

**A POLL ON THE LEAGUE**

THE President professes to know what the public thinks of the league of nations, and so does Senator Borah. The deductions of the two statesmen, however, are flatly contradictory. Popular opinion is a most elusive current and sometimes an alleged stream of it proves on investigation to be only a mirage.

It is the earnest desire to dispel some of the mist and to learn something at least of the sentiment of this city on an issue of transcendent import which has prompted the EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER to undertake a poll of Philadelphia.

The "referendum" will be begun tomorrow and will continue throughout the remainder of the week. Representatives of this newspaper will be posted on busy street corners, in industrial plants, theatres, churches and wherever the tide of typical humanity flows the strongest.

The general issue is basically clear-cut, and so will be the questions asked. It is a "yes" or "no" verdict which will be solicited. Complete statistical accuracy will, of course, be unattainable under the conditions, but with the cooperation of the public highly interesting tendencies will certainly be revealed, and tendencies are of the utmost significance nowadays.

The man in the street, the woman in the shop is naturally anxious to know what the rest of the citizenry is thinking about a subject upon which he very probably has made up his own mind. He can get an informative and suggestive insight into the situation if he will help in this newspaper's plan.

**LOOK OUT FOR THE VETERANS**

FOLLOWING the report from Paris that 500 members of the American expeditionary force had met in that city to consider the organization of a world war veterans' association, Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt announces that a similar meeting will be arranged in this country in the latter part of April for the same purpose.

The Paris meeting was the outcome of a conference of veterans on February 15. The movement is apparently well under way for organizing the nonprofessional soldiers, as Colonel Roosevelt suggests, for the purpose of "serving the nation by keeping alive the spirit which caused American citizens to make such great sacrifices."

No suggestion has yet been made as to the method by which the spirit is to be kept alive, but the politicians, who keep their ears to the ground, are already forming theories on the subject and are preparing to adjust themselves to meet the demands of the veteran vote.

**STILL TALKING**

THE grandfather of the oldest inhabitant discussed with his friends the need of sanitary regulations for barber shops after his first shave.

His descendants are still talking on the subject, and the sanitary regulations remain to be made and enforced.

Doctor Krusen, of the Department of Public Health, has just drawn up a set of regulations which he suggests be adopted voluntarily by the barbers. Some barbers already observe the precautions which he advises. They would observe them any way, whether they were required by law or not. It is not such barbers that need regulation.

It is about time that we stopped talking and began to act.

**FOOD "QUIZZES"**

IN JANUARY of this year sirloin steak cost twenty-eight cents a pound in Minneapolis and forty-five in Philadelphia. The Department of Labor has revealed this fact in the report of the cross-country food price "quiz."

In Harrisburg a bill has been revised providing for an inquiry into food charges in this state. If the proposed commission sets to work there will be another disclosure of irritating figures, and the public will be kept in the position of the man who seeks comfort in the thermometer on an abnormally cold or an excessively hot day.

He learns the truth, of course, but that only makes him the more angry. Price regulating, the experts tell us, is bad economics. It was avoided wherever possible during the war; it is hence all the more unlikely to be applied to food conditions at the present time.

Nevertheless, the publication of the bitter truth may be valuable as a tip to combat an evil by avoiding it. The knowledge that certain foods are exorbitantly high is not a specific remedy more than the frank mercury is for a "phony" scrofula, but indignation of in-

controvertible fact may prove a spur to ingenuity and resourcefulness. The public can often do a little price regulating on its own account.

With respect to coal, the need for which is fixed and rigid, this is impossible, but extending the scope of the household menu may exert a very considerable effect on extortionists. The gouger, of course, relies on convention. Housewives can embarrass him considerably if, for instance, they can think of something else for dinner besides beef or lamb. Mr. Hoover persistently urged amplification of the American diet, but his instructions were only partly heeded. The need for following them is more than ever exigent now when the probing of the prices of certain food products results in little more than the announcement that they are outrageously high.

Americans are amateurs in the use of sea foods. That succulent delicacy mussels is virtually unknown in this country, although the Italians here make frequent and inexpensive meals of them. Catholicity of taste may help a whole lot in remedying the food situation, even though the most earnest investigators submit nothing save dismal statistics.

of the average British worker. There are patriotic Englishmen who have these revolutions in mind when they say that the war didn't come too soon, because it brought enlightenment.

Massachusetts and New York have better laws for the regulation of women's working hours than those which prevail in Pennsylvania. Years ago when the eight-hour law was proposed in these states the manufacturing interests argued that they would be subjected to unfair competition in neighboring territories where the archaic driving system prevailed—and still prevails. Yet they have not ceased to prosper. Their output wasn't lessened.

Their experience was much like that of the observation boards appointed in America and in England to study war production. They found that workers who were rested in mind and body could produce as much, if not more, in eight hours than it was possible to produce in ten or twelve with a working force suffering unconsciously from fatigue during all the working day.

In this state the eight-hour day for women is rapidly becoming the rule because of voluntary action by manufacturers and agreements with labor unions. These agencies of progress have been more farsighted than previous Legislatures, which refused to enact laws such as are presented again at this session. Only isolated groups of industries have refused so far to accept the inevitable. There cannot be discrimination in such a law, because it will apply equally, placing every industry included on the same basis.

Opponents will argue that the law will cause dislocations in industry. If there are businesses that will be thrown out of adjustment by such a law, then they will have to be reorganized and put upon a modern basis. Those who oppose an eight-hour day for women in these times will win for themselves a curious distinction. They will make it plain that they aren't even good business men. And they will be self-elected to a place among those who are directly responsible for a sort of social unrest that in the end merely represents great and silent criticism of obvious wrongs.

**IS LIFE PROPERTY? IS HEALTH AN ASSET?**

The Pennsylvania Legislature Will Answer "No" to These Questions If It Defeats the Women's Eight-Hour Bill

EWEN upon grounds of practical efficiency the eight-hour day for women has been more than justified by every experiment in intensive production or organized in America and in Great Britain since the beginning of the war.

For countless millions of women and children in every great industry upon the Allies' side the war was the beginning of deliverance from unfair burdens. It proved that long hours under a driving system actually resulted in an output less than is ordinarily attainable with an eight-hour day.

Overdriven workers are never efficient. They learned this first in England, when the life of the empire was dependent on maximum production in the industries. Until then no such extensive scientific survey had been made to determine the effects of continuous exhaustion on the productive capacities of men, women and children.

Industrial organizations grew and were administered according to accident and opportunity. Experts and army boards appointed to get all producing organizations to concert pitch found that long hours made maximum production impossible.

British industries helped to win the war with an eight-hour day. And any one who opposes that principle will find himself confronted with the voluminous reports, prepared by the most competent set of observers ever organized, which prove that overstrain, besides being disastrous to the worker, is costly to industry itself.

It is upon grounds of efficiency that the representatives of the women workers of Pennsylvania will argue for an eight-hour law before the Judiciary Committee of the Senate at Harrisburg today. There are intimations of unhappy irony and of disillusionment in their refusal to base their appeal upon the fundamental human needs which their cause involves. It would be far more creditable to society and to the administrators of government if an eight-hour day for women were to be considered not as an efficiency measure alone, but as a means for the protection of life and the race itself.

What women seek when they demand a shorter working day is merely the right to live. Rest and time to think and relax are essentials of normal existence, especially for women. The bleak records of unregulated industry in many states prove the validity of this statement. The variety of diseases now designated as occupational is increasing daily. In many of the southern states heart affections and diseases of the lungs are blandly listed by the insurance companies as industrial diseases because they are being traced with increasing frequency to overwork and nervous exhaustion in mills and factories.

The review presented in this newspaper yesterday by Miss Florence Sanville, legislative secretary of the National Consumers' League, carries conviction equally tragic. The reorganization of the working day in many industries which employ women has been followed by a slow but steady decrease in the number of deaths from tuberculosis and like causes.

Opponents of an eight-hour day usually argue the rights of property and the necessity for protecting invested capital. The time has come when it is necessary to inquire whether the health and the lives of women and children—the only property and the only assets that most of them have—are not worthy of protection by the commonwealth?

In the final analysis, however, the case does not rest upon the rights of the individual, whether that individual be an employer or a worker. It concerns society and the community and the future. If there is any test that may be applied to a civilization it is suggested by the condition in which a civilization leaves the race.

A growing army of women are finding their way into industries, driven by social and economic pressure that cannot be controlled. And if they are to be broken and dispirited under a backward-minded industrial system that isn't even profitable in money, this particular generation will leave to the future endless proof of criminal stupidity and destructive ignorance.

The dismal aftermath of long periods of unregulated industrialism confronted England when the war began. The sacredness of the factory system was implied by every prior act of the government. The old delusion that workers could produce the maximum in long days of grinding application was universally prevalent. Sweating had been the rule for generations. And when the new armies were organized it was shown that a given number of inches had been clipped from the height and the chest

**FRANK DUMONT**

GRAY and this is the line of American minstrelsy, from which Frank Dumont has dropped so soon after his even more venerable colleague, Hughie Dougherty. Like the latter, Mr. Dumont clung with all the force of affectionate footlight tradition to virtually a single stage role. He was the mock pompous interlocutor, "Hughie" the irreverent and irrepressible "end man." The pair perpetuated burnt-cork types long after minstrelsy had ceased to play a prominent part in the native theatre.

The influence of the indefatigable "middle-man," however, was in some ways broader than that of his hilarious partner. Mr. Dumont was a true protagonist in his performances, for he wrote the skits, hundreds and hundreds of them, in which he appeared. They were crude, extravagant affairs, but the keynotes of their blunt satire were honesty and good humor. No topic was too formidable for the "classic" interlocutor to tackle, and there were times when his burlesques and playlets drove refreshingly straight to the heart of a political or social problem in a way that would have delighted Aristophanes himself.

The disappearance of the racy, yet ever cleanly, flavor of minstrelsy is a distinct loss to a public never more in need of hearty, uncompromising frankness than today. If the conventional forms of minstrelsy has become almost archaic, its essential spirit is always well worth heeding, especially in times of complex issues and much mental fog. Philadelphians have a right to be glad that Mr. Dumont preserved a wholesome tradition so long and so merrily in this city.

It was a sunny day for the Irish.

"President standing pat," declares a headline. Score another recognition of Herbert's March 17.

With the Bolsheviks lining up 60,000 Chinamen in their ranks, the yellow peril seems to be turning red.

In these alleged enlightened days Jerseyites have naturally little patience with "narrow gauge" trolley lines.

It seems virtually certain that the initial terms which Germany will write under dictation at Versailles will be I. O. U.

The first sign of peace: The Yankee soldiers in Coburn have been allowed to discard their tin helmets and gas masks.

The lawmakers at Harrisburg are seeking new sources of revenue. But what has the federal government left untaxed?

Don't worry, Geraldine! It was only a jealous New Yorker who said that Philadelphians are immune, so far as sleeping sickness is concerned.

All of Mr. Hohenzollern's wood chopping on the Bontick place is nothing compared with what the revolution did in cutting down his family tree.

Pity the sorrows of the coal operators. They say they are losing money on what they mine, while the consumer has to pay nearly \$12 a ton for what he burns.

The former kaiser has had his picture taken while he was sawing wood at Amerongen. What we should really like to see is a picture of him breaking stone.

It is really no news that plans are afoot to "make Holland dry." That process has been going on since she was a nation and particularly since the reclamation of the Zuider Zee was begun.

The hotel manager who says that the patron easiest to please is the millionaire who never asks the price of anything explained why so many of us are dissatisfied. Now if we were all millionaires—

It may be that Lent is responsible for the marked decrease in the number of arrests for drunkenness, but we seem to remember that just about the time Lent began the price of drinks went up.

**SOCIALISM IN THE WEST**

**Farmers Favored in Taxation and the Educational System of North Dakota Changed in the Interest of Non-partisan League**

By GEORGE E. AKERSON

Following is the final installment of the exposition of the work of the Nonpartisan League in North Dakota written by the political editor of the Minneapolis Tribune.

THE Nonpartisan League was born in North Dakota as the result of agitation for a state-owned terminal elevator. It was natural, therefore, that after the measures providing for the industrial commission and the bank had been passed, that an elevator system should be provided. The North Dakota Mill and Elevator Association, to be operated by the industrial commission, will have charge of the state's warehouses, elevator and mill system. By the terms of this act North Dakota goes into the business of marketing grain and crushing flour.

This is really the one big social experiment the farmers of the Plattevalley state have wanted to make. They have never directly expressed themselves on the bank proposition. But there has been no mistaking their desire to operate an elevator of their own.

A RATHER fantastic scheme which has for its purpose the erection of homes for citizens of North Dakota makes up the fourth big measure in the so-called industrial group. This bill was drawn by Walter Thomas Mills, Socialist lecturer, now under the pay of the Townley league.

The law provides for a home-building association of North Dakota, to be controlled by the industrial commission. Persons intending to purchase homes are permitted to open "home-buying" accounts. Once they have saved 25 per cent of the value of a home the state will finance them for the other 75 per cent, providing for repayment of principal and interest by a system of monthly installments. This home-building measure is looked upon as one of the chief "talking points" of the league. Opponents have not looked upon it as serious.

CHANGES in North Dakota's tax laws form one of the important features of the work of the Townley-controlled Legislature. Every one, even the followers of the Nonpartisan League, admits that North Dakota is facing greatly increased taxes. Prof. W. F. Roylance, of the University of Utah, was paid by the Townley organization to spend the winter in Bismarck advising the Legislature on tax bills. He drafted many of the measures.

Perhaps the most important changes in the administration of the tax laws of the state is in the change from a board of tax commissioners to one man. The Governor is to appoint the commissioner, in line with the policy of the league to effect all control in the hands of the Governor.

The Legislature reclassified property for taxation purposes. The property of all utilities, all real estate, including farms, and banks, stocks, etc., are to be assessed at 100 per cent. All residences, business structures, stocks of goods, etc., are to be assessed at 50 per cent. All structures and improvements on real estate are exempt from taxation. This is the adoption of the single tax for the benefit of one class—the farming class. Structures and improvements on real estate in the cities are to be exempt up to \$1000 value.

A new income tax law was passed. A distinction is made between "earned" and "unearned" income. The latter is taxed at 1 per cent on each \$1000 on "unearned," and one-quarter of 1 per cent on each \$1000 on the "earned" income.

CONTROL of public sentiment is important if extremely radical social experiments are to be made. The Townley leaders concluded that it was necessary to control the country press of the state, if possible. The Nonpartisan League now owns and operates at least one paper in each county of the state.

A series of bills were passed which give a printing commission the power to designate the official papers in each county. Such papers are to get all of the official printing, and no other.

It means that about 200 weeklies will be put out of business. There was much opposition to this bill, even among some of the Nonpartisan League members. They insisted that it should be voted on by the people before going into effect.

The league decided that the state really needed a committee on public information. The Legislature appropriated \$200,000 to be spent in advertising the state. A commissioner of immigration, who will be North Dakota's George Creel, will expend the funds. The law expressly provides that the money can be spent in meeting arguments against North Dakota's government and industries. In other words, the \$200,000, besides being used to attract farmers to the state, can be used in and out propaganda work.

CONTROL of the educational system is another important matter which the Townley followers did not overlook. The board of regents of the State University, the board of control for all penal and charitable institutions and the Board of Education were all abolished. Complete control of all general education and charity institutions, including the common-school system of the state, was placed in the hands of a single board of administration to be appointed by the Governor.

As some this measure is looked upon as one of the most pernicious passed by the Legislature. It will be referred to the people. It virtually seizes the office of superintendent of public instruction, the only office not controlled by the league.

RESUME of the work of the Legislature would be incomplete without mentioning some of the measures which failed of passage.

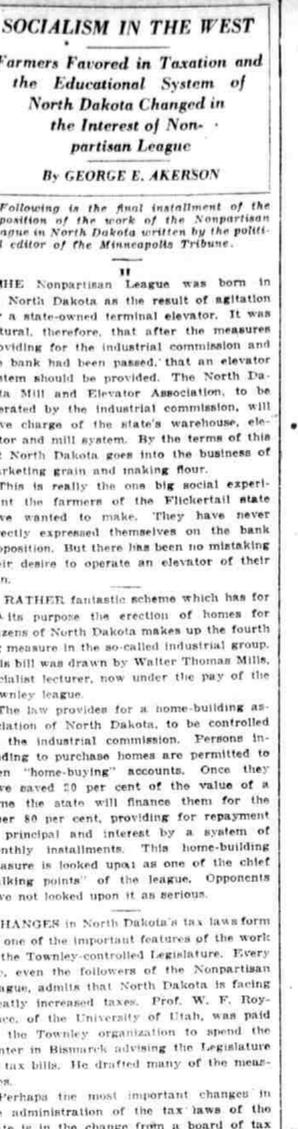
The league leaders decided that it was not necessary to pass an anti-sabotage act. "Well, no. Such an act was effective in North Dakota during the war and a war measure by action of the State Council of Defense. The act was proposed in the Legislature, but the caucus decided against it. Several of the league leaders have been closely associated with heads of the I. W. W. That may be only significant in connection with the failure to pass proposed legislation aimed at the I. W. W.

While many of the league bills were passing laws aimed at suppression of the "red flag," the Townley secret caucus decided that no such act should be passed in North Dakota.

Some laws affecting labor, including one providing for the administration of a workmen's compensation insurance fund by the state, were passed. A new mining code was also enacted into law. Control of all public utilities in the state was placed under the Railroad and Warehouse Commission.

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT recently pointed out that the people of North Dakota were attempting to lift themselves up "by their own bootstraps." He said that he felt sorry for North Dakota, but was thankful that the "dangerous social experiments" were going to be confined to one state.

With the necessary legislation, the bonds authorized, propaganda plans laid, the Nonpartisan League government of North Dakota is ready to make these "social experiments."



**THE ELECTRIC CHAIR**

An Interview  
 SOMETHING in his aspect as he leaned over the railing near me drew me on to speak to him. I don't know just how to describe it except by saying that he had an understanding look. He gave me the impression of a man who had spent his life in thinking and would understand me, whatever I might say. He looked like the kind of man to whom one would find oneself saying wise and thoughtful things. There are some people, you know, to whom it is impossible to speak wisdom even if you should wish to. No spirit of kindly philosophy speaks out of their eyes. You find yourself automatically saying peevish or futile things that you do not in the least believe.

The mood and the place were irresistible for communion. The sun was warm along the riverfront and my pipe was trailing a thin whiff of blue vapor over the gently fluctuating water, which clucked and sagged along the slimy pilings. Behind us the crash and banging of heavy traffic died away into a dreamy undertone in the mid golden shimmer of the noon hour.

THE old man was apparently lost in reverie, looking out over the river toward Camden. He was plainly dressed in coat and trousers of some coarse weave. His shirt, partly unbuttoned under the great white sweep of his beard, was of gray flannel. His boots were those of a man much accustomed to walking. A weather-stained sombrero was on his head. Beneath it his thick white hair and whiskers waved in the soft breeze. Just then a boy came out from the nearby ferry house carrying a big crate of daffodils, perhaps on their way from some Jersey farm to an uptown florist. We watched them shining and trembling across the street, where he loaded them onto a truck. The old gentleman's eyes, which were a keen gray blue, caught mine as we both turned from admiring the flowers.

I don't know just why I said it, but they were the first words that popped into my head. "And then my heart with pleasure fills and dances with the daffodils," I quoted.

He looked at me a little quizzically. "You imported those words on a ship," he said. "Why don't you use some of your own instead?"

I was considerably taken aback. "Why, I don't know," I hesitated. "They just came into my head."

"Well, I call that bad luck," he said, "when some one else's words come into a man's head instead of words of his own."

HE LOOKED about him, watching the H scenes with rich satisfaction. "It's good to see all this again," he said. "I haven't looked around here for going on thirty years."

"You've been out of town?" I asked.

He looked at me with a steady blue eye in which there was something of humor and something of sadness.

"Yes, a long way out. I've just come back to see how the Great Idea is getting along. I thought maybe I could help a little."

"The Great Idea?" I queried, puzzled.

"The necessity for every human being to be able to live, think, act, dream, pray for himself. Nowadays I believe you call it the League of Nations. It's the same thing. Are men to be free to decide their fate for themselves or are they to be in the grasp of irresponsible tyrants, the hell of war, the cruelties of creeds, executive deeds just or unjust, the power of personality just or unjust? What are your poets, your

**SOME JOB**



**SERVICE CHEVRONS**

YOU can strip him of his chevrons. You can take his stripes away. And the badge of his division. Which produces your dismay? You can make him scrap his medals. But, no matter how you try, you can never, never legislate That glitter from his eye.

He has seen a summer day That you have never dreamed, He has seen flesh turn to clay, While affronted Heaven screamed; He has seen the shattered trench, He has seen the twisted wire, He has seen strong, living men Charred and black in molten fire. He has seen beneath his feet "Flesh of comrades turn to clay, As you never could have dreamed He has seen a summer day.

You can ban the golden arrow That is stitched on his right sleeve, And "eradicate distinction" With a simple by your leave, Promulgate your resolutions, Hurl the ink until you die, But you can't expunge his memory Nor the glitter from his eye.

He has seen an autumn night That you could never bear, With hell's fire his only light, Pointing out hell's angel there; He has known a single hour When cold steel, red hall and gas Ceased and left a holy calm— Such as come when angels pass; He has seen his comrades stand, Half transfixed in release, Knighted, spurred and panopied By their liege, the Prince of Peace. —Artist in the Stars and Stripes.

**What Do You Know?**

- QUIZ
1. Which was the first state outside of the original thirteen to enter the American union?
  2. Distinguish between euphemism and euphuism?
  3. What was the surname of St. Patrick?
  4. What is naere?
  5. Which is the "City of Magnificent Distances"?
  6. How many men have served as Chief Justice of the United States and who were they?
  7. What is the meaning of the word angle, now used mainly in the combination ingenious?
  8. What famous English writer was described by a noted statesman of his time as an "inspired idiot"?
  9. What king in Greek mythology had the gift of turning everything he touched into gold?
  10. What animal is sometimes called Bruin?
- Answers to Yesterday's Quiz
1. Senator Lodge is to engage in a public debate upon the league of nations with President Lowell, of Harvard.
  2. Andre Chenier was a gifted young French poet, guillotined during the Reign of Terror in 1794.
  3. "St. John" is the gospel least concerned with the narrative of the life of Jesus and more than the other three gospels with his sayings and discourses.
  4. The Bank of England is called "The Little Old Lady of Threadneedle Street."
  5. The ophagus is the canal from the mouth to the stomach.
  6. The triforium; gallery, usually in the form of an arcade above arches of nave and choir (and transepts) of a church.
  7. North Carolina is "The Old North State."
  8. The word shilly-shally is derived from "shall I, shall I."
  9. Latakia tobacco gets its name from the Turkish province of Latakia in Asia Minor.
  10. Eight furlongs make a mile.